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2062



Perrin.

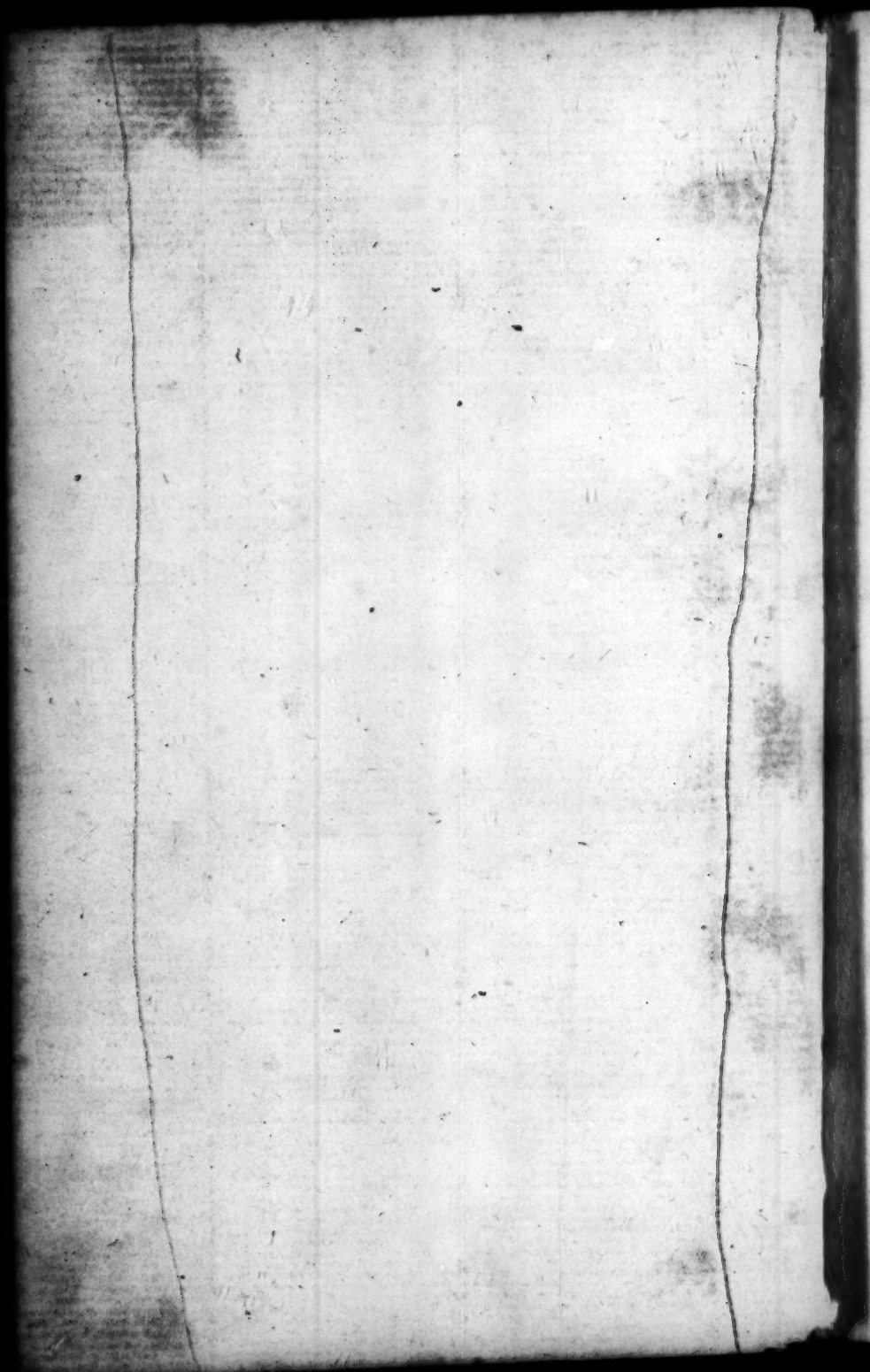
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2062



Perrin.

Peggy Waller



P R I O R Y

O F

St. B E R N A R D.

Profr. W. C. C.

Profr. W. C. C.

1607/2841



P R I O R Y
O F
St. B E R N A R D;
A N
O L D E N G L I S H T A L E,
I N T W O V O L U M E S;
B E I N G
T H E F I R S T L I T E R A R Y P R O D U C T I O N
O F A
Y O U N G L A D Y.

V O L . I .

L O N D O N:
P R I N T E D F O R
W I L L I A M L A N E,
L E A D E N H A L L - S T R E E T .



P R I O R Y

O F

St. B E R N A R D.

C H A . P . I .

AT the latter period of King Henry the Second's reign, St. BERNARD'S PRIORY belonged to the noble family of Raby. The young Earl, upon succeeding to the estate, resolved to make some few alterations; that part where

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the

the old Priory had stood, being particularly ruinous. At a small distance stood a once beautiful chapel, but rendered by civil war a desolate confusion, almost overgrown with ivy.

Lord Raby, rather of a contemplative turn, took great delight in these ruins; and whenever disgusted with the world, buried the thoughts in this solitude, and formed new prospects to benefit those whom Providence had rendered his dependents; never haughty or overbearing, he delighted in redressing those distresses which his benevolent disposition made every day more and more familiar to him.

One evening, passing through several of the old cells adjoining the remains of a ground gallery, he saw a door, which before he had never perceived, and seemed but newly opened. Curiosity induced him to essay unlocking it, which, with much difficulty, he effected: it flew back with a noise like thunder, and discovered a narrow dark passage.

Astonishment, for some moments, hindered Lord Raby from proceeding, but summoning up his courage, went forward to a small room; the glimmering light just discovered a woman, who, though in the decline of life, was yet handsome, and had a

degree of elegance and dignity which commanded respect from every beholder. She advanced to Lord Raby, upon his entrance, with the appearance of one who had been in expectation, and thus addressed him :

“ My heart, my Lord, informs me,
“ that I now see Lord Raby. You
“ are much surprized, no doubt, and
“ much it grieves me that I cannot
“ now throw open every door of this
“ inclosure, and lead you throughout
“ its meanders, with the same facility
“ you reached this place ; but time’s
“ slow progress forbids me, ere the
“ appointed hour, to disclose the mystery ; therefore retire, and, for the
present,

“ present, bury in your breast the
“ knowledge you have attained.

“ Your countenance bespeaks you
“ as you are, a man of worth ; but,
“ gracious powers, what trials will
“ await the name of Raby ! The
“ King has heard the tale of slander ;
“ Manston has too well succeeded ;
“ but I, though here concealed, may
“ assist, or at least protect the injured
“ from oppression. In a short space
“ of time you shall both know and
“ thank me ; at present retire, but re-
“ member when danger threatens, to
“ take refuge on the east side of the
“ Priory ; my watchful care shall pro-
“ vide you an asylum, till, like a star

“ new risen, Lord Raby shall emerge
“ from obscurity, and dazzle all his
“ enemies with his radiance.”

Lord Raby, more astonished than ever, was going to require an explanation, when, waving her hand, with a frown, she cried, “ Leave me, “ and by obedience deserve my confidence.” He bowed in silence, and obeyed. The lady closed the door, and he returned towards the house, meditating on what had passed; he was met by an aged domestic, grown grey in the service of his family: “ Fly, my dear Lord,” cried this good creature; “ fly—an order “ is arrived from Court to seize you; “ an

“ an usurper, of the name of Manston,
 “ is enriched by your spoils ; preserve
 “ a life so justly valued ; even now
 “ they seek you. I have lived much
 “ too long to see this mournful day.”

Lord Raby could not refuse the
 “ tributary tear of sensibility to this
 “ worthy creature : Redmond,” said
 he, “ farewell ! I need not say, watch
 “ over the dying embers of thy
 “ master’s fortune ; it would wrong
 “ thee to suspect the force of thy at-
 “ tachment.”

Lord Raby then turned his steps
 from the Priory, and struck into a
 wood, where, changing cloaths with

some peasants he could rely on, jointly with them occupied a small cottage, till he could think of some means to dispossess the spoilers of his estate. Lord de Courcy mean time left no place unsearched to find Lord Raby.

The three families of De Courcy, Manston, and Roly, having been ever at variance, this opportunity of destroying the only remaining hope of either, was not to be neglected. Having first secured his own family in possession of the Priory, he proceeded to examine the ruins, confident that Lord Raby was unapprized of his coming.

The

The vaulted passage already mentioned, was again discovered, and Manston, his son, and their attendants, rushed forward with eager haste; their hearts beat, but from different emotions; Edmund feared nothing but that Raby should be found, and his generous soul revolted at the idea of assassination; how then must the usurper feel, when, as if by a being more than human, his passage was impeded? The friend of Raby stood before him! A cold chill invaded every vein; his elevated spear dropped from his extended hand, and a wild look of horror was diffused over his face; while with graceful, yet determined voice, she thus addressed him:

“ Hold!

“ Hold ! ——advance no further !
“ Never, within this sacred cloister,
“ has unhallowed footsteps trod, nor
“ ever shall they, while the secret
“ rests with me.”

Manston ashamed, endeavoured to rouse himself from the stupor that had overwhelmed him, and demanded an account of herself, and by what authority she kept possession of part of his estate; offering every advantage, provided she would throw open every door, and reveal to him the treasure she had doubtless hid in the bosom of the earth; threatening death in case of a refusal.

“ Treasures

“ Treasures I have,” replied she,
“ such as all the wealth of England
“ cannot purchase; no interest, no
“ bribes shall enforce me to reveal
“ it: though, was I to tell thee who
“ I am, thy soul would recoil back,
“ and shrink into itself with horror.”

Manston, more and more alarmed,
with trembling accent, ordered her to
give up Lord Raby, or prepare for
death. She replied, with a smile;
“ That is no threat to me, I fear not
“ death; Raby is safe, though not in
“ this retreat, and may every blessed
“ power continue its protection. May
“ his happiness——”

Manston,

Manston, ever impatient, and now goaded on by fear, raised his fatal spear, and pierced the breast of the most intrepid of her sex. She fell, and collecting all her strength—"Hear me," cried she, "De Courcy (I cannot, in justice, call thee by any other name) and profit by my fall: give up the riches thou hast by oppression gained; rely upon the generous Raby for protection, or fear every horror a guilty conscience has in store; for, know thy erring sword has slain a sister! receive Elgiva's pardon for thy rash mistake, but cease to persecute her darling son. —Oh, Raby! thy mother must yield her breath, without one part-

"ing

“ing glance; tis hard, my son, but
“heaven——” The unfinished sentence died upon her lips, and at her brother’s feet she expired.

Stiffened with the sight, they were for some moments motionless, till Manston, first recollecting himself, upon a nearer view, found she was indeed his sister, whose marriage with Lord Raby he could never be brought to acknowledge.

More and more perplexed, as every one had believed her dead for a great while, at length breaking silence, he raved and stampt, but more from vexation at not finding the object
of

of his pursuit, than from remorse at the murder of his sister; and after, in vain, attempted to find another passage through the cave, returned to the Priory, which he began fortifying with all the eagerness of guilt; but not all these means could silence the inward suggestions of his heart.

Imagination ever presented his murdered sister, fresh bleeding by his hand; his Julia, the fond delight of his age; the resemblance of her fainted mother no longer met his eyes with smiles; a gloomy frown usurped its place, and the amiable girl wept in silence her father's charge. Her brother Edmund had softened her grateful

ful heart, in favor of Lord Raby, and they mutually lamented their father's cruelty, and the enterprising Edmund promised her to save him, if possible, from a repetition of crimes so flagrant and enormous.

C H A P. II.

EDMUND, who ever felt for the distresses of others equally as for himself, was miserable on his father's account, and often retired to the remains of the chapel, to pour out his grief in secret. One evening, as he took his accustomed walk, he thought he heard a voice, and hastily advancing, saw sitting on the fragments of an ancient wall, a young lady, who to him appeared

peared the most heavenly girl he ever beheld. By her side was a spaniel, of which she seemed excessively fond, and bestowed on the little animal many careffes. Her dress was deep mourning, and her form majestic.

Upon a near approach, he saw she was in tears; every impulse of curiosity now gave way to the softer emotions of compassion, and he drew near.

The charming maid started, and attempted flight, but was stopped by the supplicating posture of Edmund, who, bending one knee to the ground, entreated her to stay.

“ Oh! fir,” replied Laura, haftily
drying her tears, “ if you truly pity
“ me, let me entreat you not to wifh
“ to difcover a myftery, that every
“ combination of events concur in
“ obliging me to conceal; fuffice it,
“ I am miserable, and ever muft re-
“ main fo.”

Edmund turned pale: the lovely
Laura’s tears could not be feen with-
out emotion, without fufceptibility.

“ Nay, not for ever miserable! moft
“ charming of thy fex; behold before
“ you one whole utmoft endeavours
“ fhall be exerted to alleviate every
care;

“ care; let me supply the place of
“ those friends misfortune has deprived
“ thee of.”

“ Is it possible,” replied Laura,
“ that you can oblige the earth to
“ restore the only parent my fond
“ affection ever knew?”

“ But,” said Edmund, “ these
“ wilds are not a shelter - place for
“ such a delicate form as thine;
“ haste, then, with me, and let me
“ be thy protector; rely upon my
“ honor, I will not betray your con-
“ fidence.”

“ I dare not,” cried Laura, withdrawing her hand; “ oh! thou exemplary mother, in an evil hour
“ wast thou murdered, by a savage
“ tyrant, when most thy aid and
“ counsel was wanting, to guide our
“ unexperienced youth; and, shall
“ thy Laura madly betray the trust
“ thou generously hast placed in her?
“ no! sooner will we be united in
“ that death, love for thy children
“ made thee seek.”

Edmund, distracted at the discovery, and fearful of losing her, flung himself before her, and told her to exhaust

haust on him all her resentment;
“ for,” said he, “ I am Manston’s
“ son! but yet the friend of Raby,
“ and adorer of his sister. I detest
“ my father’s vices, and will, at the
“ hazard of my life and fortune, love
“ Lord Raby.”

“ Generous man!” cried the de-
lighted Laura, “ I will not doubt;
“ be thou the protector of Raby, and
“ trust the gratitude of Laura; but,
“ indeed, you must leave me; my
“ sister Maud may suspect my longer
“ stay, and yet I dare not trust her.
“ The violence of her grief has not

“ yet subsided ; her first transports
“ may be fatal.”

“ I leave you, amiable Laura,”
said Edmund, “ but in a state of
“ mind not to be envied.”

CHAP. III.

EDMUND turned towards the Priory, but cast many looks behind: inclination ever led him to favor Lord Raby, but a higher claim now fixed him firmly in his interest; yet, a pang would now and then intrude for his father; he wished to remove his prejudice, and, with that benevolent idea, reached the house.

He found his father more than commonly softened, and, in the course of conversation, introducing Lord Raby's cause, endeavoured to plead in his behalf: roused from inactivity, de Courcey's rage was excited against his son; and, upbraiding him in the severest terms for harbouring his enemy, told him either to quit his fight for ever, or head a party, then arming, to search the cottages of the wood, where he heard Lord Raby was concealed.

Edmund, well knowing opposition would but hasten the arbitrary mandate, determined to act only by motives of justice, told his father, that
he

he was unhappy at incurring his displeasure, but no threats should make him an abettor of cruelty, and instantly left de Courcey, almost choaked with passion; and, winged by humanity, generosity, and the image of Laura, he sought the wood, and soon distinguished Raby from the rustics that surrounded him.

Fearful of being suspected, he concealed his name, and contented himself with warning Raby of the threatened danger, and offering to share his future fortune.

Raby

Raby looked upon his friendship as a most noble effect of generosity, and endeavoured to dissuade him from persevering, but in vain.

Their generous altercation was, however, soon stopped, by the appearance of Lord Manston's domestics; and Raby, having discarded the peasant's dress, led the way to that part of the Priory the lady had before pointed out to him. This being near the spot where Edmund first saw Laura, he could not forbear telling Raby his adventure, which had so recently happened.

They

They narrowly searched the ruins, and, at length, found at the bottom of a hollow, a little rustic cottage, but so covered with ruins and bushes, that, unless narrowly looked for, it could not be perceived.

Upon opening the door, they saw, sitting by the side of the hearth, a venerable old man: simplicity and neatness were his attendants, and all the necessaries of life, without any superfluities.

The jessamine and woodbine grew in profusion round the casement, and yielded a delightful fragrance; but
old

old English hospitality seemed centered in the countenance of Hubert.

He looked at Lord Raby, and heaved a deep sigh: "Unfortunate youth;" cried he, "art thou reduced to be buried alive, ere thy appointed time? but that alone can preserve thee! waste none of the moments providence has allotted for thy preservation, but follow me. This morning my cottage, which, by many years, the hand of time had rendered sacred, was rudely searched, and my loved master's name prophaned by wretches, my old withered arms
"longed

“longed to chastise; but, bending
“with the white age of four-score
“winters, the renown of youth is
“lost in the stupor of old age.”

He, by this time, had reached a shed, at the back of his cottage, where was a trap-door, so exactly fitted as not to be perceived when down: here Hubert stopped; the big tear rolled through the furrows of his face; he was uncommonly agitated; and, taking a hand of each, “Swear, both of you,” cried he, “never to reveal what ye here see, “unless for the advantage of all “concerned.”

They

They both took the oath required, and, assisting to raise the trap-door, followed the old man through the several passages, till they terminated in a spacious apartment, where hung a glimmering light, and round the walls displayed military trophies, in all the paraphernalia of war; but what principally attracted their notice, was many banners of the Raby family.

They passed from thence into a smaller room, where, upon a high pedestal, arrayed in armour, a waving plume of feathers on his casque, and

and in his hand a pointed spear, stood the image of Lord Raby's father!

Rivettèd with astonishment, he gazed upon the lifeless statue, and, actuated by some unknown impulse, kneeled at the foot of the pedestal, and remained, as if in silence, waiting the inspiration of Heaven! While in this posture, a violent burst of thunder shook the place, and a terrible storm succeeded. Lord Raby rose, and, turning to Hubert, bid him proceed.

C H A P. IV.

THE third room was spacious and lofty; the furniture, though now old, bore indisputable marks of its former magnificence.

A lady in deep mourning sat at a table, reclining her head on her hand, while the tear trickled down her pallid
• cheek.

cheek. A faint smile broke through the cloud of grief, at the sight of Hubert, but, starting at those who followed, advanced, with a look of horrid calmness.

Hubert took her hand, and, joining it with Lord Raby's, cried, "My
 " dear Lord, receive from your faith-
 " ful Hubert, a sister, too long un-
 " known: this is the lady Maud,
 " eldest daughter of my honored mas-
 " ter. Alas! good man, he imagined
 " not what treasures this retreat con-
 " cealed; had he known it, these
 " beauteous flowers would not so

D

long

“ long been left to waste their bloom—
“ ing youth among the dead.”

Raby, who had never heard of these claims to his affection, looked upon all as a vision, when suddenly a door opened, with precipitate haste, and the amiable Laura appeared. Hubert advanced, and, bending one knee to Lord Raby, holding the hand of Laura, thus addressed her.

“ Behold my rightful Lord, your long expected, long lamented brother! the only friend now left to protect your innocence, and guard you in that world you wish to see.”

“ My

“ My friend ! my brother ! ” cried the blushing Laura, throwing herself in his arms, “ all remembrance of past “ griefs are cancelled in this happy “ moment.”

Lord Raby embraced them both, resolved patiently to wait an explanation, and turned round to present his friend, who, through respect, had kept behind.

The instant Laura beheld Lord Edmund, she exclaimed, “ Ruined “ and undone for ever ! oh, Man- “ ston ! ” and fainted on the bosom “ of her sister.

Horror and despair suspended every faculty of Raby and Hubert: they gazed upon the senseless Laura and the kneeling Edmund, who, with uplifted hands and eyes, seemed imploring every guardian saint to restore her, unconscious of himself being the only cause of her disorder.

Hubert first broke silence; "Have
" I," cried he, " by one rash, one
" unadvised mistake! sacrificed that
" family, my life was pledged to pro-
" tect? how has my good Lord been
" deceived by this specious villain!

" Forbear," cried Edmund, " nor
" condemn a man unheard: I am
" the

“ the son of Maniston, but detest his
“ vices; nay, for you oblige me to
“ disclose it, am even now in a situa-
“ tion an ungenerous enemy might
“ rejoice at;—an outcast from my
“ father’s house; an exiled wanderer,
“ for daring to oppose the hand of
“ slaughter! and Raby, though my
“ father’s foe, is the only man exist-
“ ing to whom I must owe my life
“ and future fame: but, let me bury
“ every selfish thought, and here re-
“ quest him to revenge his mother’s
“ murder! let the son expiate the
“ father’s crime! — strike! my
“ Lord.”

Laura, who had, since her recovery, paid the utmost attention to their looks and conversation, observing Lord Raby still in the same unaltered position, with his hand upon his sword, she caught his arm, and fixed her eyes upon his, waiting her doom from his lips.

After a solemn pause of a few moments, Raby caught Edmund in his arms, and, embracing him, “My
“ sisters,” said he, turning to them,
“ acknowledge my friend, who, but
“ now, preserved my life, at the
“ hazard of his own; therefore, let
“ that benefit root out the prejudice
“ imbibed against his family: re-
“ ceive

“ receive him as your brother’s bene-
 “ factor; every gratitude that my
 “ heart can offer shall be thine; I
 “ may conquer in my turn, and the
 “ father’s granted life recompence his
 “ Edmund’s friendship.”

“ No,” interrupted Maud, “ that
 “ clemency, from Raby, to the hated
 “ Manston can never be allowed; a
 “ mother’s blood cries out for ven-
 “ geance on the head of Manston!”

“ No more, my sister,” said Lord
 Raby, “ let his innate feelings be his
 “ punishment; for when he slew our
 “ mother, he too, lost a sister;—but,

“ my good old friend, help me to
“ reconcile these seeming improba-
“ bilities. My father instilled into my
“ earliest years the belief, that, in
“ giving me birth, my mother died :
“ strange ! then, it must seem to me,
“ to meet her in so odd a place,
“ and such a chain of various inci-
“ dents attending the discovery !”

“ All this I allow,” answered Hubert,
“ but learn from me, that Lady Raby
“ outlived all her misfortunes, to save
“ her son : from her you had the first
“ intimation of the near approach of
“ your pursuers ; but, to explain, I
“ must refer back some years.”

C H A P. V.

“ **A**T your birth this country was
“ involved in all the horrors
“ of a civil war; and, in the midst of
“ the rejoicings for an heir, your fa-
“ ther was dispossessed of all his for-
“ tune; but what he particularly re-
“ gretted, was his Priory, which he
“ had re-built out of the ruins; and
“ conscious,

“ conscious, from the family differ-
“ ences, he had but few friends to
“ depend on, he brought hither his
“ lady and two daughters, with some
“ attendants; and, after acquainting
“ me with every avenue, left us, pro-
“ mising to return soon, and bring
“ her infant, which, in spite of all
“ intreaties, he obstinately refused to
“ leave with her.

“ He returned, it is true, but never,
“ from the hour she first entered this
“ cave, did she see her child. The
“ excuses that were made, were so
“ vague, that parental apprehension
“ could not be deceived. She ex-
“ postulated,

“ postulated, but in vain; tears had
“ no better effect, and, concluding
“ her child dead, gave herself up a
“ prey to the keenest anguish.

“ In a little time your father ceased
“ to visit here; and, at her earnest
“ request, in disguise, I left the cave,
“ to gain some information of our
“ lord: I learnt, that the war having
“ subsided, he was once more rein-
“ stated in his possessions, but had
“ shut up the Priory, and was retired
“ to a castle in the North, where he
“ meant to reside.

“ Guess

“ Guess the feelings of Lady Raby,
“ at this intelligence; she could scarce
“ support it; but the sight of her two
“ children, sympathising in her sor-
“ rows, accompanied by an unequal-
“ ed resolution, and greatness of mind,
“ made her rise superior to every mor-
“ tal indignity, and she determined
“ to educate them, in every respect,
“ as Lord Raby’s daughters, in hopes,
“ one day, of presenting them to the
“ world as such.

“ Thus did this amiable woman, in
“ the bloom of life, submit, without
“ repining, to be buried alive, and re-
“ ported to the world as dead.

“ I, occa-

“ I, occasionally, went abroad, as,
“ Lord Raby’s habitation being re-
“ moved, I was secure from being
“ discovered.

“ To obviate the suspicions of the
“ country, I built the cottage, of the
“ ruins, where you saw me; it was
“ first the object of much wonder, but,
“ at length, ceased to be a novelty,
“ and, as I assumed the appearance
“ of a cynic, disgusted with the world,
“ my company was but little sought,
“ and, in a few months, they scarce
“ remembered such a being existed.
“ I daily communicated all the intelli-
“ gence I could procure to Lady Raby.

“ About

“ About two years since Lord Raby
“ died ; till that final period we flat-
“ tered ourselves with the most san-
“ guine hopes of his return, and daily
“ invented some new excuse for his
“ unparalleled cruelty ; yet, though
“ treated in so unprecedented a man-
“ ner, this amiable woman paid the
“ tribute of unfeigned grief to his
“ memory, and concealed from her
“ children, as much as possible, the
“ alienation of their father’s love ;
“ and daily did they visit the statue
“ which so much attracted your notice
“ on entering. Her piety and good-
“ ness, was, at length, rewarded, by
“ hearing that her son lived, and
“ inherited

“ inherited all his father’s virtues,
“ without his failings.

“ Your return, my Lord, to the
“ Priory, awakened every soft mater-
“ nal feeling, and she wished to be-
“ hold that son who had cost her so
“ many sighs; but how was that to
“ be accomplished? Who, upon her
“ emerging, without previous notice,
“ from this place, could, at first, be-
“ lieve the evidence of their senses?

“ I informed her of Manston’s arts;
“ she was conscious of the danger
“ which, on every side, threatened
“ you; and, one evening, after hav-
“ ing

“ ing frequently watched your soli-
“ tary walk, I opened the door, which
“ led to the principal passage, and
“ awaited the issue of the discovery.

“ Seeing you fearless enter, I re-
“ paired to Lady Raby, bidding her
“ prepare for the interview. After
“ a little conflict, she hastened to the
“ apartment, where you found her.

“ The fond mother’s heart glowed
“ to embrace her son, but the time of
“ danger would not allow of such
“ endearments; she told you where to
“ fly, in case of danger, determined to
“ afford you here every comfort and
“ every

“ every security your situation needed.
“ Each revolving day she re-visited
“ the place rendered sacred to her by
“ your presence, indulging the fond
“ hope, that Manston might have re-
“ pented his cruel enterprize, and cu-
“ riosity might again lead you to make
“ further discoveries.

“ One day, having staid an unusual
“ time, and knowing that to be her
“ favorite place, I went to seek her;
“ but—how shall I describe my feel-
“ ings?—they surpass the power of
“ language!—to see this exemplary
“ mother, this injured wife, who,
“ mindful of her children to the last,

“ fallen a victim to their safety and
“ concealment, and extended on the
“ ground, a pale and lifeless corpse !

“ The shriek of surprize and ter-
“ ror, which escaped me, re-echoed
“ through the cave, and reached the
“ ears of her unhappy daughters, who
“ flew to find, alas ! not that animated
“ form, which used to chase dejection
“ from each face,—call forth the
“ voice of melody, or the smile of
“ pleasure,—but a sad image of what
“ she had been !

“ Oh, dire remembrance ! they
“ both fell on the streaming bosom
“ of

“ of their mother! while I, a little
“ recovered, examined the sword that
“ slew her, and knew, by the hilt, it
“ belonged to Lord Manston.

“ I soon saw by what means her
“ life had been terminated, and bent,
“ with awful reverence, before the
“ dear saint, who had fallen a martyr
“ to affection and duty.

“ After a portion of time spent
“ in the first effusions of grief, I
“ led the two ladies to their apart-
“ ments, having taken a secret vow,
“ over the loved remains of my ho-
“ nored lady, to protect them as my

“ own. With much pain and diffi-
“ culty I removed the earth, and
“ interred her hallowed dust in the
“ place where she expired, and erect-
“ ed, with some of the ruins, a tem-
“ porary tomb.”

C H A P. VI.

HERE Hubert ceased. Each blended the tear of sympathy, and mutually mourned the common loss; but Edmund's breast heaved with tumultuous sighs. "Must I, at length," cried he, with broken interrupted voice, "must I give up my friend, my love?—Yes, Hubert,

E 3

"haste,

“ haste, conduct me from the cave;
“ my father shall, on his son, exhaust
“ his utmost rage; for not his prayers
“ nor threats shall induce me ever to
“ betray thee.

“ But here I must not stay, lest
“ the injured shade of Elgiva should
“ rise indignant at her murderer’s
“ son! I have, alas! no claim, no tie,
“ to love or friendship, from the house
“ of Raby.”

“ You have,” said Laura, blushing as she spoke, “ an equal claim to
“ both; your generosity, your honor,
“ nor, are too powerful advocates
“ to

“to be resisted, by such hearts as
“ours.

“The example of such a mother,
“fresh before us, is our incentive to
“despise the narrow prejudices of the
“world, and discern merit where ever
“it presents itself.”

“Spoke,” cried Lord Raby, tak-
ing her hand, “like the daughter
“of Elgiva; henceforth, Lord Ed-
“mund, be our friend and brother.”

“True generosity!” exultingly ex-
claimed Hubert, “noble souls alone
“can see and cherish worth, even in

“ an enemy ! would the world receive,
“ in general, and establish this prin-
“ ciple, every prejudice would, in
“ consequence, vanish, and mankind
“ be enabled, by judging entirely
“ from the dictates of their own
“ hearts, to form permanent and pro-
“ per attachments ; but, while that
“ blind guide, Custom, is allowed to
“ mislead the great, as well as poor,
“ man must never hope for happiness
“ unalloyed with suspicion, or un-
“ clouded with care.

“ Suspicion is the foundation of
“ misery, and will, in the end, over-
“ whelm the wretched possessor in
“ torments,

“ torments, that render existence a
“ weight unbearable; while the man
“ of generosity roams above all
“ thought to the realms of pleasure,
“ and enjoys, in his own mind, a
“ heaven of serenity and happiness:
“ with such a disposition, how much
“ is their friendship to be envied and
“ sought for.”

The happy family suffered the good old man to proceed, with the overflowing effusion of his honest heart, and rejoiced at the glow of satisfaction and pleasure he seemed to experience.

C H A P. VII.

HUBERT then conducted the youthful Lords into the part of the cave allotted him, and left the two sisters, actuated by very different emotions.

Maud yet felt some little regret, at receiving Lord Edmund as a friend
so

so recently after her mother's death; while Laura, who did not view things in so gloomy a light, felt herself, for the first time, consoled and happy.

“ Well,” said Maud, “ our brother is noble and generous; I perfectly adore him; none could be the enemy of such a man, but a wretch, actually unworthy either name or being.”

“ And yet,” sighed Laura, “ that wretch is father to Lord Edmund, and our uncle! Who could imagine such a difference? our cousin is all mildness, like the pleasing summer
“ gale,

“ gale, that gently fans the clustering
“ leaves ; and, when he speaks, it is
“ like the nightingale’s soft notes, or
“ the soft breathing of the zephyr’s
“ sighs ; while his harsh father, like
“ a furious tempest, lours around,
“ and drives the trembling herds far
“ for shelter ; all nature shrinks at his
“ approach, and every faculty is sus-
“ pended with horror ! but is it wholly
“ improbable, my sister, that he may
“ not be son of de Courcy ?”

“ Oh ! my dear Laura, cease to
“ build trembling hope on so unsta-
“ ble a foundation : you, perhaps,
“ think it impossible, that such oppo-
“ site

“ site characters should exist, and so
“ closely allied; but recollect the
“ precept of our dear mother, that
“ love, benevolence, and goodness of
“ heart, are not circumscribed by
“ family, or swayed by alliance.

“ The mind, unfettered from the
“ body, is still the same, and those
“ impressions which nature first stamps
“ upon the infant mind, are seldom
“ or ever obliterated. Those, then,
“ who have the charge of youth,
“ should watch the first attempts of
“ dawning reason, and fix, in their
“ youthful hearts, such sentiments of
“ truth

“ truth and honor, as might defy the
“ hand of time to efface.”

“ If Lord Edmund,” sighed Laura,
“ owes to his father the greatness of
“ foul he possesses, sure Lord de Cour-
“ cy is not so culpable as appearances
“ bespeak him; his crimes may be
“ those of error, not arising from a
“ total perversion of principles.”

“ Ah! Laura,” returned Maud,
“ blinded by partiality, and unhack-
“ neyed in the paths of vice, you
“ strive to find an excuse for the most
“ inveterate enemy we have. It cer-
“ tainly is most true, that minds, to-
“ tally

“ tally inexperienced as ours, are
“ generally strangers to the grand foe
“ of man’s peace.

“ Suspicion, that horrible dæmon,
“ my dear sister, is unknown to thee;
“ openness of disposition, and can-
“ dour, are your characteristics, and
“ you judge of others by yourself.

“ Born secluded from all the world,
“ and its deceptions, you are totally
“ unacquainted with deceit, except by
“ the accounts of our dear mother, so
“ frequently imparted to us: she has
“ furnished our minds with every spe-
“ cies of knowledge necessary for fe-
“ males,

“ males, and warned us, by numerous
“ examples, of the fallacy of human
“ happiness; yet, evils we have never
“ experienced, we are unprepared to
“ resist.”

Laura yet doubted, though she allowed the strength of her sister's arguments: she was a girl of great susceptibility, unbounded generosity, strong ideas, and a softness of manners, which ever rendered her more pleasing, at first sight, than Maud, who, united with a majestic figure, still more refined sentiments, and a power and dignity of expression, which inspired, even in her enemies, awe and respect, while

a con-

a conscious rectitude sparkled through her expressive features.

Her sister's eyes breathed such a gentle pleasing languor, that conveyed an idea of the greatest sensibility of soul, even before she spoke.

C H A P. VIII.

THE next day, after spending the night in important expectation, Lord Raby and Edmund joined the fair sisters. After discoursing some time upon different subjects, Laura proposed their daily visit to their mother's urn.

Maud

Maud arose, and led them, through a variety of turnings, to an artificial chasm, which opened to the fatal spot, where, by the industrious hands of Hubert, was raised a temporary tomb, to the memory of his loved mistress.

Lord Raby could not suppress the amiable tribute of filial affection; and, blending his tears with those of his lovely sisters, vowed eternal friendship, and fraternal love.

“Suffer me,” cried Lord Edmund,
 “to join my vows with your’s, most
 “gallant Raby, and let the ancient
 “hereditary feud, so long subsisting

“ between our families, be, from this
“ day, cancelled; and this honored
“ dust be witnesses to our mutual friend-
“ ship.”

They then knelt silently round the tomb, but, all at once, were dreadfully interrupted: the door flew open, and de Courcy appeared, followed by his domestics.

Malignant joy sat upon his brow, at the sight of the devoted family now before him; but his eyes flashed rage on Edmund. “ Vile wretch,” cried he, “ is thy fell arm raised against the
“ author of thy being? begone! I
“ disclaim

“disclaim thee! thou art no more
“my son!”

Edmund bowed low. “Believe
“me, sir,” he cried, “this heart
“has never beat against a father’s
“peace; his honor I would sacrifice
“my life to save.”

The furious Baron interrupting,
bade him be silent; then turning to
his domestics, commanded them to
dispatch his enemy, and secure the
women.

Laura gave a shriek of terror, and
fainted in Edmund’s arms.

Lord Raby, disdaining to converse with so ungenerous an opponent, folded his arms, and, undaunted, expected his approaching fate.

The swords were already raised; each pressed before his fellow, anxious to gain the favor of their lord, when Maud, starting from her reverie of horror, opposed their united points, and clasping Lord Raby in her arms, “ We die together,” cried she, “ my
“ dearest brother !—Yes, de Courcy,
“ well mayest thou start, and writhe
“ thyself with fear; think ! ere this
“ blow is given; think on our accu-
“ mulated wrongs ! that cry aloud for
“ ven-

“vengeance. Look on that tomb!
“behold this hallowed urn! ask thy
“own heart, if all is still within.”

The usurper trembled, and, with a faltering voice, ordered them to be dragged asunder; when Maud turned suddenly round to the assailants, while united modesty and firmness sat collected on her brow.

“Hold,” cried she to the foremost, who held his sword close to the breast of Raby, “is it like a warrior, to turn
“mean assassin! and, inglorious, thus
“rush on a noble adversary, unarmed,
“defenceless? give him a sword, and

“ meet him in the field of honor ;—but
“ fee ! already more than mortal he
“ appears ! Retire, base miscreants,
“ and tremble to behold your master.

“ Adversity has no charms for
“ servile souls like yours ! else ye
“ would hide your heads from Raby’s
“ presence, and bend the knee, as ye
“ were wont, before him.”

The uplifted sword was fallen;
abashed they stood ; when, de Courcy,
fearing to be by his own people be-
trayed, pretended to be moved to
pity, and ordered them to be received
and

and conducted, all prisoners, to the house.

At the mention of prisoners, Lord Raby glowed with noble indignation :
“ By heavens,” he cried, “ I could
“ bear all but this.

“ Why, Maud, couldst thou debar
“ me the only wish my situation left
“ me? Canst thou see me live a witness
“ of my sisters misery, without
“ the power of affording them relief?
“ but, by Heaven! he yet shall
“ tremble; Raby yet shall shake his
“ coward soul! and the usurper shall
“ fear

“fear the man his chains and bars
“confine.”

“Die, villain,” said the furious Earl, and slightly pierced the breast of Raby: he fell in the arms of his sisters.

Edmund knelt by his friend; raised him from the ground, and used every effort to restore him.

De Courcy, raised to the highest pitch of phrenzy, muttered curses against his son, and once more lifted the bloody sword, when his domestics rushing in, in great consternation,
called

called for their lord to head them, telling him, that a party of the country people had loudly exclaimed against his tyrannical oppressions, had broke down the draw-bridges, and were actually in the second court of the castle.

The guilty Earl started, and flew to find the advancing foe. Meanwhile, Lord Raby began to shew some signs of life.

They conveyed him, with some difficulty, to the secure part of the cave, and, leaving him in the care
of

of Hubert, returned to fetch the unhappy Laura, whom fear for her brother, and Lord Edmund's life, had thrown into a second swoon.

CHAP. IX.

NO language can paint, or pen convey, an adequate idea of Edmund's grief, when he found her gone. He essayed instantly to follow, but in vain; the door was closed. He gave himself up to all the eloquence of woe, and raved for his Laura.

Maud

Maud tried, but in vain, to remove the horrible idea from his imagination, that his father had murdered her; but, at last, she drew him back to Lord Raby and Hubert, who, to their great joy, proclaimed his master's wound not dangerous.

This was some little comfort to the afflicted Edmund, who, taking an affectionate leave of his friends, vowed a solemn oath, by the shrine of St. Bernard, never to know peaceful days, till he had found his Laura.

He staid till night, and then, with cautious step, approached the Priory,
and,

and, upon enquiry, found that his father, after quelling the insurrection of the morning, had received an order from Court, requiring his immediate attendance; and he had, in consequence, set off some hours before, with a numerous retinue; but, before his departure, had openly renounced his son, and left orders to prevent his return to the house, should he be inclined to attempt it.

The domestics, however, pitying the agonized Edmund, and weeping Julia, obtained for them an interview, in the absence of her watchful governess.

Edmund

Edmund imparted to his sister all his distresses. She sympathized with him in all; but, with an eager look and changed voice, enquired for Raby.

Upon hearing his accident, her looks terrified her brother; but, assuring him she was well, he suspected not, that his detail of Raby's sufferings had caused her emotion.

She informed him, that her father, fearing a discovery, had taken Laura with him, who, in every interval of reason, had intreated to be left with her; but, upon being refused, had relapsed, raving of her brother and her
Edmund.

Edmund. She advised him to pursue his father's rout, and, by some disguise, endeavour to see Laura, and aid her escape.

Discourfing on fuch interesting themes, time flew unheeded, and the vigilant Allice furprised them, and, loading both with reproaches, took the lovely Julia's arm, and obliged her to leave her brother, who was quite overwhelmed with grief, to be the unhappy caufe of her fevere ill-treatment.

It was now dark, and the big clouds portended the heavy gather-

ing storm. The winds loud whistled through the vaulted ruins, while the rattling thunder shook them to the centre.

Edmund, though borne down by grief, was yet a stranger to the sensation of fear. Conscious of the rectitude of his own thoughts, he boldly set at nought every danger, and defied the utmost power of the storm.

C H A P. X.

WITH hasty step he quitted the Priory; his beautiful flaxen hair blew in disorder over his shoulder, and, unknowing and unheeding where he went, ascended a hill, at some distance from the house, and penetrated the deepest recesses of the embowering wood.

After wandering some time, by means of a violent flash of lightning, he found the entrance of a small cave, where he extended his storm-drenched limbs, and complained aloud to the unpitying winds.

“ Why was I born; or, rather,
“ why did Providence form my heart
“ more susceptible of love, compassion,
“ friendship, every soft emotion, than
“ his who gave me being? What
“ should hinder me, that, even now,
“ at this awful moment, I put a
“ period to a miserable existence? But
“ then, my Laura! Can I, without
“ one effort to relieve, abandon her

“ to

“ to a perhaps cruel destiny? Ah,
“ wretch that I am! possessed of such
“ dear friends, such exalted spirits, yet
“ incapable of exerting towards them
“ that benevolence my full heart
“ heaves with;—Then, if the life
“ of man can be no longer service-
“ able, why drag a load of useless
“ woe?—I can no longer;—this shall
“ end it.”

Having thus said, he started on his feet, and drew his sword. His looks were wilder than the fierce monarch of the woods, and his voice, agitated by terror, echoed through the forest like the tremendous blast, that oft

affrights the wearied traveller's slowly-wandering steps. His high-raised arm, and well-poised blade, spoke but too plain, the dreadful purpose of a distempered brain; when, sudden, a voice, as if from heaven, gentle and mild, arrested his awful purpose, and, from the inner cave, with hasty step, a venerable hermit came. The hand of time had touched him, but had only added that grace and dignity, his youthful days had left unfinished.

“ Stop, my son,” he cried, “ the
“ unhallowed deed forbear !”

Aghast Lord Edmund stood; the fatal
steel dropped from his nerveless hand.

“ What

“What visionary power art thou,”
cried he, “whose voice, like that of
“fate, can charm even desperate
“grief to listen?”

“I am,” answered the hermit, “a
“mortal, like yourself; and once,
“like you, familiarised to sorrow;
“but twenty years of piety and
“prayer have made past scenes of
“misery conducive to my present
“happiness. Learn to profit by an
“old man’s morals; in due season
“thou shalt know why I am thus
“self-condemned, an exile from the
“world.”

“ Oh ! say,” spake Edmund, the almost starting tear proclaiming his emotion, “ answer me ; Dost thou
“ lament a ruined friend ; or hast thou,
“ like me, sustained the loss of more
“ than life, in the dear maid I love ?
“ Hast thou, like me, received a parent’s curse ?”

“ All these, and more,” rejoined the hermit : “ anon thou shalt know
“ all. Thy father, nay, start not, for
“ I know thee well, is gone to Palestine, and with him thy beloved
“ Laura, yet faithful and unchanged :
“ thither thou must follow, in the disguise that I prescribe.

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

IMPATIENCE now sat visible on Edmund's brow. The good man smiled. "Age," said he, "often trifles
" with the ardour of youth, and, early
" to inure them to a life of trials and
" mortifications; with graver steps
" checks the youthful race, bids them
" reflect, nor endanger future happiness,
" nefs,

“ nefs, by rash precipitation. Oft
“ the caution’s good, but now must
“ give way to the heart-dilating hap-
“ piness of diffusing pleasure.

“ Know then, this night, by the
“ pale moon’s silver light, I took my
“ accustomed walk through yon drear
“ wood, whose venerable extended
“ boughs almost exclude her rays,
“ and, under-foot, in great promif-
“ cuous heaps, ruins of ancient mo-
“ numents, and fallen trunks of aged
“ trees, almost obstructed the path,
“ I silent mused, and sat me down
“ among the fragments of a warrior’s
“ tomb, once thy renowned ancestor,
“ now

“ now a poor clod of clay, exposed
“ to the rude steps of every rustic
“ passenger.

“ Through the gloom two men ad-
“ vanced; one, by his port and voice,
“ I knew was Manston; the other
“ a stranger. Alone they doubtless
“ thought themselves, and many
“ schemes devised; one I shudder to
“ tell the son, a father was capable
“ of designing” —

“ Say, what of Laura,” eagerly in-
interrupted Edmund, “ lose not on me
“ a thought, a word; I ought, and
“ can forgive it all, nay more; if
“ com-

“ commanded, kneel at my father’s
“ feet, and offer to his dagger’s point
“ this heart, which beats, not for it-
“ self, but for Laura’s woes. Tell
“ me, is she safe?”

“ Doubtless, at present, she is,”
returned the hermit, “ but, believe
“ me, deeply enamoured is the Earl---
“ Nay, patience, youthful Lord, this
“ passion ill-becomes thee. For thy
“ consolation hear; Laura, though
“ mild by nature as the gentle dove,
“ yet, when insulted, virtue calls it
“ forth, rouses a noble spirit, worthy
“ of the house of Raby.

“ The

“ The furious Earl, enraged to find
 “ resistance to his imperious will, and
 “ all his honors, with his hand def-
 “ pised, bore her with him to Palest-
 “ tine, determined to perform such
 “ deeds of valour, as should authorise
 “ him, of the King, to ask the hand
 “ of Laura.—Nay, more, he means
 “ to proscribe thee as a traitor, and
 “ insinuate to the royal ear such tales
 “ against thee, as should prevent the
 “ future boons of mercy.”

“ Oh!” exclaimed Edmund, “ sure
 “ the eternal providence of God has
 “ sent thee to be my better angel!
 “ but I may lose time, and he may—
 “ perdition”

“ perdition on the thought! and on—
“ but hold! he is my father still!”

“ And canst thou,” cried the hermit, “ forget such complicated wrongs?—Suppose he is thy father”——

“ Leave me calm,” answered Edmund, while, in his expressive eyes, contempt appeared, and disappointment; “ were Manston not the author of my being, this arm should chase the monster from the world; not even the presence of my King should check the ardour of my rage; but, before the all-seeing eye of
“ Heaven,

“ Heaven, I would set his crimes,
“ and leave him to its justice; but,
“ as my parent, I am immoveable;
“ if entreaties fail, this life is his;
“ these lips shall close for ever in the
“ grave! this right arm drop useless
“ by my side, ere I forget myself, to
“ curse my father!—and thou, whose
“ venerable age, and, as I thought
“ them, pious thoughts; Does thy
“ religious principles teach parri-
“ cide and disobedience?—If they
“ do, I here abjure them all; I am a
“ soldier, and follow honor.”

“ And ever shall,” enraptured,
cried the hermit, “ I have tried, and
“ find

“ find thee worthy, even beyond my
“ utmost wish! On then, assail thy
“ father’s foes, and, from his lips,
“ receive the praise thy noble deeds
“ demand,—the man that stole thy
“ Laura is not thy father!”

Struck with astonishment, for some moments, Edmund was lost; but recovering himself, exclaimed, “ Man-
“ ston not my father! where, venera-
“ ble man, then must I seek him?”

“ Not in splendor,” answered the
hermit, “ the golden roof, the soft
“ luxuriant couch, have long been
“ strangers to him: far from ambi-
“ tion,

" tion, attentive only to thy welfare,
 " has he been secluded from mankind;
 " but I will not trifle longer; behold,
 " my Edmund, in me thy father, and
 " real Earl of Manston.

" Can it be?" exclaimed the enraptured Edmund, " yet there is
 " something in that face tells me
 " it is a crime to doubt."

" Receive," said the hermit, " the
 " fond embrace of paternal love;—
 " my long-lost child, my Edmund!
 " dear image of thy fainted mother!
 " but follow me, I will at large unfold thy birth."

The hermit then led him to the inner-part of the cave, and, seating themselves at his frugal board and cheerful fire, he thus began the tale of other days.

C H A P. XII.

“ **A**T the age of twenty-two, I
 “ succeeded to my father’s
 “ estate, with all his honors, and was
 “ high in the favor and esteem of my
 “ prince. This usurper of our name,
 “ Sir Hugh de Courcy, a Norman
 “ knight, had two beautiful sisters:

H 2

“ Maud,

“ Maud, the eldest, incurred his dis-
“ pleasure, by marrying Lord Raby,
“ who, as well as myself, for the sake
“ of his sisters, had made many over-
“ tures towards a reconciliation. Un-
“ fortunately, however, it only aug-
“ mented former differences. De-
“ Courcy was so enraged against his
“ sister, that he denounced vengeance
“ against her; and, daily ingratiating
“ himself with the Prince, our pre-
“ sent sovereign, his hate seemed daily
“ to increase, in proportion to his fa-
“ vor at court.

“ I had long loved his sister, the
“ beautiful Emma, and she returned
“ my

“ my passion. I forgot my resent-
“ ment, and made proposals to her
“ brother of so liberal a nature, that,
“ had not hate preponderated over
“ interest, he must have accepted.

“ I was rejected, with the most
“ mortifying contempt, and your dear
“ mother treated with the greatest
“ cruelty.

“ Being, however, of an age to
“ choose for herself, and remonstrances
“ having no effect, she boldly fled her
“ prison, and took shelter at St. Ber-
“ nard's Priory.

“ Lord and Lady Raby received
“ her with open arms, and, having
“ privately sent for me, after some
“ little hesitation on her side, I re-
“ ceived her from the hand of Lord
“ Raby, as the choicest gift of Hea-
“ ven, and, for three short years, we
“ lived the happiest of the happy.

“ At the expiration of that time,
“ you was six months old, and re-
“ membrance of all our past suffer-
“ ings were obliterated, when we be-
“ held thee smiling in infant sport.

“ Oh! days of pleasure, fleeting as
“ the winds, how many painful hours
“ have

“ have ye since occasioned me! but
 “ all will yet be well, now I have
 “ found my boy.

“ De Courcy had suggested to the
 “ King, that I was unfaithful to his
 “ interest, blazoning, at the same
 “ time, his own injuries, and assert-
 “ ing that I had, by the connivance
 “ of Lord Raby, seduced his sister,
 “ by a promise of marriage I never
 “ meant to fulfill; loudly demanding
 “ justice, for this dishonor of his fa-
 “ mily.

“ The King believed this artful
 “ tale, and gave him full commission

“ to assume to himself my titles and
“ estates, and full power to seize my
“ person, wherever found; his sister
“ was delivered up entirely to his
“ care,

“ Borne upon the wings of hate,
“ he soon arrived, with all his vassals,
“ at Manston Castle.

“ Unapprised of his coming, I had
“ but just time to shut myself, my
“ Emma, thee, and a few faithful
“ servants, in one of the towers of
“ the Castle.

“ Means

“ Means of defence we had but
 “ few, but were unanimously deter-
 “ mined, if every means of escape
 “ were lost, to sell our lives as dear
 “ as possible: even my Emma, tremb-
 “ ling for her husband, and her darl-
 “ ing boy, would not be restrained
 “ from using her feeble efforts.

“ This intrepidity astonished even
 “ our enemies, to see a woman, whose
 “ heart was replete with all the soft-
 “ ness of her sex, yet, when the ties
 “ of wife and mother called forth her
 “ fortitude, could defy every danger,
 “ in the cause of nature! but all her
 “ heroism proved vain; the gates
 “ were

“ were battered down, and injustice
“ triumphed.

“ I performed deeds scarce credi-
“ ble : in the first onset of despair,
“ I fought not for myself, but for
“ those far dearer to me than life;
“ for them alone I preserved a being,
“ which, bending with disgrace, be-
“ came a load almost too heavy for
“ existence; but, overpowered with
“ numbers, and wounded, my fury
“ availed me nothing; like the lion,
“ caught in the unfeeling hunter’s
“ toils, I raged at the true sense
“ I had of the misery before me. I
“ saw my Emma torn from my em-
“ brace;

“ brace, for though unarmed and
“ helpless, she still hung on me, as
“ if secure of protection by my pre-
“ sence, and soothed my distraction
“ with all the fondness of conjugal
“ love.

“ She saw my spirit flaming with
“ indignation, ready to break the fet-
“ ters which confined it to the body.
“ She saw—and, with her eyes, glist-
“ ening with tears, pointed to thee,
“ my Edmund, whom she held to her
“ matron breast; she looked on both,
“ in all the silent eloquence of grief.
“ I instantly forgot all the horrors of
“ my own fate, and clasping my arms
“ about

“ about ye both, gracious Providence!
“ I cried, look down upon my Emma,
“ nor let her be the innocent victim,
“ but suffer Manston to bear it all,
“ and save his Emma, and her Ed-
“ mund too.

“ The guards were moved at our
“ distress: the tear of pity stole down
“ the cheek of some less hardened
“ than the rest, and who knew, per-
“ haps, the endearing tender tie of
“ wife and child; but de Courcy soon
“ finished the melancholy scene.

“ He came, like a fierce wolf,
“ growling for his destined prey: at
“ his

“ his command they dragged my faint-
“ ing Emma from my arms!—bar-
“ barous fiend, he caught thee from
“ her, and dashed thee on the ground!
“ Quick recovering to the sharpest
“ anguish, I heard her rave and shriek
“ for her child and husband, alas!
“ unable to relieve her.

“ He followed to direct her guards,
“ when, in an instant, animated by
“ more than mortal strength, I burst
“ from those that held me, and,
“ snatching my crying infant in my
“ arms, unknowing of the path I
“ chose, I fled.

“ Chance

“ Chance directed me to a small
“ house, not far from the Castle. I
“ found it all in confusion, and was
“ told, that Lord Manston, coming
“ to take possession of his fortune, had
“ left there his wife and infant son,
“ till the Castle was properly cleared
“ for their reception, but that the
“ infant was just then expired, in
“ sudden convulsions.

“ Impelled by a secret providence,
“ I demanded admission, and entered
“ the chamber where Lady de Courcy
“ sat. Her maternal grief looked
“ lovely, and inspired new hopes.
“ I flung thee at her feet, and knelt
“ before

“ before her: she started. ‘Ah! ma-
“ dam, said I, fly not the wretched;
“ they cannot hurt you.

“ Unhappy man! her tears redoub-
“ ling while she spoke, I know thee
“ now!

“ Her tears, my child, now flowed
“ for us.

“ Lord Manston, said she, the
“ time will not permit me, as I
“ would, to tell my tale of sorrow;
“ but pity and forgive a woman as
“ truly wretched as thou thyself canst
“ be!

“ I am

“ I am the daughter of the Earl
“ of Kent, and oft beheld thee,
“ when among the youthful Lords,
“ that graced King Edward’s Court.
“ Wilt thou not condemn my weak-
“ nefs, when, with a blush, I own I
“ faw and loved?

“ I was amazed; but, recovering
“ herfelf, with a refolute air, continued
“ her difcourfe.

“ I muft not hear, my Lord, your
“ anfwer, but will tell thee, that, in
“ a tranfport of deſpair, I heard de
“ Courcy’s vows, and, by the King’s
“ command, I married him:—but
“ Heaven

“ Heaven is just, and ever punishes
 “ those vows the tongue pronounce
 “ and heart disclaims:—I have lost
 “ my child, the only tie that recon-
 “ ciled the thoughts of life!

“ Knowing my husband’s purpose,
 “ I accompanied him merely to do
 “ you service;—I can and will; fly
 “ then, a disguise and faithful guide
 “ shall attend thee to a place of
 “ safety. All application to the King
 “ is vain; trust to my guardian care
 “ thy wife and child: but let me first
 “ exact a promise, never, while I live,
 “ attempt my husband’s life, for I must
 “ revere him, though I cannot love.

“ She then ordered a faithful servant to attend me, and had the deceased infant privately interred, enjoining the few who attended to eternal secrecy.

“ She then laid thee, my Edmund, in his place, bestowing on thee many caresses. The rectitude of restoring thy ancient right reconciling the idea of duplicity, I left thee, and shed many bitter tears; indeed they were, my son, and the first that ever disgraced thy father’s cheeks.

CHAP. XIII.

“ I N a religious garb I passed the
 Priory, but knew too well, that
 “ their countenancing me would but
 “ hasten their own ruin; I, therefore,
 “ only breathed a passing sigh, and
 “ traversed this wood.

“ In this cave I found the vene-
“ rable inhabitant, bending beneath
“ the weight of age; and making him
“ acquainted with my distresses, he
“ pitied and relieved me, gently sooth-
“ ing my woe-worn soul, and patiently
“ attending to the effusions of despair.

“ This worthy friend advised my
“ stay with him, for some time, in
“ case any fortunate event should in-
“ tervene.

“ By his admonitions I became to-
“ lerably calm, and resigned to my
“ hard fate, when, in the last visit
“ my attendant made to the Castle,
“ he

“ he brought me the unhappy tidings,
“ that my dear Emma was no more!

“ The usurper had extended his
“ hate to the innocent inhabitants of
“ the Priory, and they, as well as my-
“ self, were become exiles, but nobody
“ could inform him where.

“ The good old hermit watched
“ with parental care over the first
“ transports of my grief, and awak-
“ ened in me the powers of reflection
“ and resignation; his advice was —

“ Tempt not misfortunes, but bear
“ them, when come, with christian
I 3 “ fortitude.

“ fortitude. This life is but a short
“ journey, through which every man
“ travels, and must bear, with patience,
“ the few difficulties that are thrown
“ in his way.

“ Suppose yourself going in haste,
“ and highly elated, to some tourna-
“ ment, or other place of diversion,
“ would you not undergo, with plea-
“ sure, whatever hardships might op-
“ pose your entrance, either as a party
“ or mere spectator? Even so is life;
“ calm and unruffled we should meet
“ our several trials, and think all that
“ is ordained is right.

“ This

“ This is true philosophy, and
“ might soon be rendered practical,
“ by keeping proper guard over the
“ passions when in their infancy.

“ Warmth of temper too often
“ carry man out of his proper sphere,
“ and render him wretched, by a re-
“ trospection of his former conduct.

“ How commendable then is it, to
“ correct that failing, and, by gaining
“ the noblest of all victories, that over
“ ourselves; insure a calm old age,
“ unannoyed by strife, and undisturb-
“ ed by conscience, often a trouble-
“ some, but a most necessary guest.

“ With such precepts did the good
“ old man soften and inform my
“ mind, till death robbed me of this
“ inestimable friend.

“ His grave, the work of his own
“ pious hands, is not far from hence:
“ there, with the assistance of my
“ faithful servant, I deposited the
“ corpse.

“ After some due honors paid to
“ his memory, as much as time
“ and place would permit, I longed
“ for some intelligence of my boy,
“ and, leaving my attendant at the
“ cave, in the hermit's dress, I pro-
“ cured,

“ cured, at the next town, a grave
“ habit and artificial beard, and re-
“ paired to the Castle, soliciting ad-
“ mission, as a poor friendless stran-
“ ger.

CHAP-

C H A P. XIV.

“ **T**HROUGH the humanity of
the amiable Bertha, I got ad-
“ mission: time and grief had made
“ so great an alteration, that she
“ knew me not. The false Earl find-
“ ing me not illiterate, the wishes of
“ my heart was completed, by hav-
“ ing

“ ing you, my child, committed to
“ my care, to receive the first rudi-
“ ments of instruction. Motives of
“ delicacy hindered my discovering to
“ Bertha who I really was, and she
“ strenuously opposed an entire stran-
“ ger having the management, and
“ forming the principles, of her child;
“ so she always termed thee, my Ed-
“ mund, and, in truth, ever treated
“ thee as such.

“ Objections only served to render
“ the Earl more obstinate in my fa-
“ vour, and I tutored thee, unknown,
“ for seven years.”

“ Is

“ Is it possible ! ” interrupted Edmund, his eyes sparkling with pleasure, “ Do I, in you, recognize the
“ worthy, the benevolent Edgar?
“ Pious instructor of my head-strong
“ youth, whose loss I ever mourned.”

“ The same,” rejoined the delighted father; “ at that age a public
“ school was proposed; and, as it
“ coincided with my plan of educa-
“ tion, I sought not to oppose it.

“ You will wonder, perhaps, at thy
“ father’s enduring to live under the
“ roof of the man that had injured
“ him; but I was meditating new
“ projects,

“ projects, to restore my right; and
“ war-like occupations so frequently
“ employed the Earl, that Manston
“ Castle was scarce ever seen by him,
“ except by chance.

“ I once, however, met with an
“ opportunity I did not neglect, of
“ rousing his conscience. You re-
“ member I accompanied you to the
“ college; in returning we passed a
“ ford; the usurper being mounted
“ on a spirited horse, it reared in the
“ water, and threw his rider, who was
“ carried by the current down the
“ stream.

“ Forget-

“ Forgetting, at that instant, all my
“ injuries, and listening only to the
“ gentle pleadings of humanity, I
“ plunged after the fallen Lord, and
“ had the good fortune to save him.

“ After some time, opening his
“ eyes, he said, Edgar, I thank thee;
“ thy noble intrepidity has saved my
“ life, and Manston shall reward it.

“ This roused every recollection,
“ and, fixing my eyes upon him,
“ pronounced, de Courcy (at that he
“ started) Manston’s feelings will,
“ indeed, reward him; this is his re-
“ venge; behold him present to thy
“ fight;

“ fight; thou art now unarmed and
“ unprepared; when we meet again
“ it is death alone decides our mortal
“ strife.

“ I then rode up to the servants,
“ and gave proper directions to have
“ him conveyed home.

“ I made the best of my way to an
“ adjacent town, leaving there the
“ horse, with orders, a week after, to
“ convey it to Manston Castle. I re-
“ turned by night hither, and again
“ resumed the hermit, fully satisfied
“ with my own conduct.

C H A P. XV.

“ A FEW years since I lost my
“ faithful Robert: I buried
“ him near my worthy friend, and,
“ fearing to be known, have since
“ heard but imperfectly concerning
“ my friends, till de Courcy’s last
“ barbarities, at the Priory, resounded
through

“ through the country; and the other
 “ night him and Sir Philip de Mont-
 “ ford revealed, in their conversation,
 “ a great deal of what has lately
 “ passed, respecting the Cave con-
 “ cealed among the ruins.

“ My heart felt for poor Laura:
 “ Sir Philip blamed him much, for
 “ offering love to her so recently
 “ after the death of his wife, and
 “ commended the rejection of his
 “ suit: but it seems Sir Philip loves
 “ the Lady Julia, who detests him
 “ for the known profligacy of his
 “ manners: owing to this contempt
 “ has been her confinement; and de
 Vol. I. K “ Courcy .

“ Courcy then solemnly renewed the
“ vow, that she should consent to
“ marry him, or he would shut her
“ up for life, in a monastery. He
“ then artfully alluded again to Laura;
“ and every scruple of Sir Philip’s
“ being removed, by the oath of de
“ Courcy, he promised his assistance,
“ with the utmost alacrity.”

“ I thought,” said Edmund, smiling,
“ you knew not the friend that
“ attended this—I cannot yet frame
“ my tongue to call him villain.”

“ It is true, young man,” replied
Lord Mansfon, “ but reflect, you did
“ not

“ not then know yourself, nor could I
“ tell my son would prove worthy of
“ so sacred a deposit, as the secret
“ of his birth.

“ Twelve rolling years, in youth-
“ ful minds, produce the effects of
“ ages in settled graver years; but,
“ well-pleased, I find the precepts of
“ Edgar were not unworthy the son
“ of Manston.

“ Guess my joy and surprise, not
“ unmixed with terror, when first thy
“ loud complaint assailed my ears:
“ but, when I saw thee, though in
“ frantic horror, the image of my

“ Emma seemed renewed, and I no
“ longer doubted.

“ I again embrace thee, child; born
“ to misfortunes, yet born to soar su-
“ perior to them all, and rise re-
“ splendent from every cloud the hand
“ of envy may throw over thy days
“ of life.—Then retire, my Edmund;
“ my rushy couch shall lend thee, for
“ a few moments, some remission from
“ surprise and trouble.

“ To-morrow’s dawn thou shalt
“ conduct me to the Cave; there,
“ after embracing the inhabitants of
“ its dreary mansion, we will embark
“ for

“ for the Holy Land. The King,
 “ though sometimes blinded, is ge-
 “ nerous, and such numerous wit-
 “ nesses must confute even de Cour-
 “ cy’s well-told frauds—But why
 “ should I rely on them? the noble
 “ Richard will feel for his ancient
 “ warrior again disdaining ease, and
 “ raising the shield against his ene-
 “ mies: he is the character a king
 “ should ever maintain; just to his
 “ laws, and to his people generous:
 “ he watches their interest as a tender
 “ father does a race of darling young!
 “ happy Raby! happy Manston! when
 “ thy brave prince, dictated by truth,
 “ detects this monstrous fraud, and

“ make three different houses happy
“ in their ancient rights; restored to
“ honors, friends, and liberties lost to
“ them for years; old genuine hospi-
“ tality shall mark the change, and
“ all the land shall find their Peers
“ restored !”

C H A P. XVI.

SO spoke the Earl, and to his
rushy couch retired. Scarce
had the day tinged the eastern skies
with orient red, when, drowsy sleep
disdaining, the noble hermit rose, and
called Lord Edmund, to hail the
tuneful lark, sweet songster of the

-sky. All nature seemed arrayed in the gayest colours, and the sun illuminated the Heavens with its most brilliant rays.

Edmund, scarce reconciled to the amazing change, yet rejoiced, and met his delighted father, with a countenance that shewed the innate pleasure of his soul.

“Come, my son,” said Lord Manston, “lead me to the Cave; let me embrace our amiable relations: from this auspicious day, be the interests of Raby and Manston only one.”

Edmund,

Edmund, with eager hasty steps, led towards the Priory, and entered the cottage of Hubert, which was empty.

They explored the windings of the Cave; in one of the apartments they met the good old man; he viewed them with surprise; but Edmund, ever impatient, interrupted his enquiries, by asking for his friend—

“Where is my Raby? conduct
“me to him, that I may introduce
“my father, and bid him a long
“farewell.”

“Seek

“ Seek him not here,” answered Hubert, with a smile, “ this morn
“ he went——”

“ Where?” exclaimed Edmund :
disappointment crushed at once the
glow of youthful ardour friendship
had animated his countenance with,
“ Where must I seek him?”

“ At the head of war-like thou-
“ sands,” answered the old man,
while the enthusiasm of age gave
energetic force to his expression, “ as
“ a volunteer, William de Harcourt,
“ by name, he braves the foes of
“ Christendom ! his gallant spirit
“ heard

“ heard with indignation the insults
“ his country’s laws and religion
“ sustained, from Saracen unbeliev-
“ ers; and, though deprived of the
“ privilege of serving as himself, like
“ a true hero, disdaining servile ap-
“ plause, renders his aid, and hides
“ his former laurels in the present.

“ Though gained obscurely, yet,
“ they will be more splendid, than
“ those the voice of adulation heaps
“ upon the plumed hero.”

“ Oh! bravery of soul,” exclaim-
“ ed Lord Manston, “ true hero-
“ ism! and I trust will be rewarded.”

He

He then enquired for the Lady Maud.

“ She is gone with her brother,” rejoined Hubert, “ as, on account
“ of his wound, they can only travel
“ by easy journeys: his sister and
“ three domestics form all the suite
“ of Raby’s potent heir.”

“ Are they all faithful,” asked the Earl, “ their fidelity well tried and
“ well proved ?”

“ All save one, and he, if looks
“ and manners, cast in the softest
“ mould, can indicate the intentions
“ of

“ of the heart, is honest. He join-
“ ed the travellers on the high road,
“ contiguous to the ruins: his ap-
“ pearance a gentle boy; the modest
“ blush of youthful diffidence glowed
“ on his cheek, and the shining tear
“ stood trembling in his eye. He
“ seemed as if escaped some wonder-
“ ous ill, or murderous snare.

“ The generous Raby, ever atten-
“ tive to distress, demanded, in the
“ kindest accents, the occasion of his
“ fear.

“ Oh! sir,” said the beauteous
youth, “ pity and protect me; I
throw

“ throw myself upon your goodness,
“ to save me from utter ruin ; present
“ death would be my choice, rather
“ than to remain in England.

“ By your appearance I should call
“ you noble, and a soldier ; oh ! let
“ me attend your war-like fortune ;
“ take a helpless orphan, oppressed
“ by cruel men and stern power, into
“ your protection, for here each in-
“ stant my life is in danger.

“ His voice, his manner, but above
“ all, his artless looks, were inno-
“ cence and beauty contended for
“ pre-eminence, so pleased Lord
“ Raby,

“ Raby, that he told him to fear
“ nothing, but follow him; his for-
“ tunes he should share, and, if suc-
“ cessful, he would rise far beyond
“ his present expectations.

“ A deeper crimson now dyed the
“ face of Lucius, so he called himself.

“ Heaven knows,” said he, “ I ask
“ not splendor; worlds, without one
“ blessing, were to me as nothing!

“ Seeming as if he had gone too
“ far, he was ready to sink with con-
“ fusion, when Lord Raby eagerly
“ enquired, what that blessing was.

After

“ After some little hesitation, he
“ answered, peace of mind! but, oh!
“ spare me, sir, nor ask me to renew
“ the recital of my grief.

“ Lord Raby then ordered a horse
“ for his new companion, and they
“ proceeded to the road, where I
“ parted from them, and they were
“ soon out of sight.

By the advice of this faithful domestic, they remained some days at the Cave, till de Courcy's vassals had joined their master.

He

He heard with surprise Lord Manston's story, and told him he remembered well the time it happened, but could not recollect any circumstance of Lady Manston's death.

He heard she disappeared, and that some years after Lady de Courcy died, reported by some to be occasioned by his ill usage, but more generally believed her complaint to be a deep decline.

Lord Manston heaved a deep sigh at remembrance of his Emma, and another to the memory of a woman, whose partial opinion of him was the

original cause of her disgust, and who had so generously protected him and his family.

He lamented that such worth should ever be unhappy.

C H A P. XVII.

AFTER some days abode at the Priory, they set forward on their journey, and were so effectually disguised by their armour, that the most penetrating eye of observation could not discover them.

They turned to take a last look at the Priory, from the summit of the hill: Edmund sighed; the remembrance of Laura caused a momentary uneasiness in his bosom.

At some distance they met Sir Philip de Montford, riding full speed, attended by three servants: he stopped the strangers, and enquired if they had seen a young lady near the neighbourhood, and ended with an artful insinuation, to know who they were.

Being informed they had not met any such person, and that they were volunteers to the Royal Camp, in Palestine,

Palestine, he wished them every success they could desire; told them the King was not yet embarked, and that his friend, the Earl of Mansion, had the command of the army, now on its passage; adding, that he ought to have accompanied him, but just before they went on board, an express arrived from St. Bernard's Priory, to the Earl, with information that his daughter, the Lady Julia, and his promised bride, had eloped from thence, nor could any one trace the way she had taken: that he had searched all the country round, without effect, and was then posting to London,

to obtain from the King his royal proclamation for discovering her.

They parted, after many professions of regard from the Knight, owing to their resolutions of going the crusade, and promising to enquire after his lost Julia.

They soon arrived at the Sea-side, where they found, contrary to Sir Philip's expectation, the King ready to embark, and obtained their passage in one of the ships which conveyed the troops.

They

They had a short and pleasant voyage, and, after touching at the Isle of Cyprus, made the best of their way to the allied armies of the Christian Princes, then on their march to Joppa, where the forces of Saladin lay encamped.

Lord Edmund's soul was fired with indignation, at seeing the usurper of his father's name and honors, filling his rank, and giving orders where he ought only to obey.

His youthful pride was hurt; but his father, more accustomed to the world, treated it with the contempt
it

it deserved, and, with a triumphant smile, saw him, in all his arrogance and pride, marshal the troops, and exercise upon them his ill-gained power.

But behold the change a few hours wrought in this haughty favorite!

The King arrived, and to him he resigned the command, with the most abject servility: the contracted brow was smoothed, and the supple courtier supplanted the imperious general.

Edmund viewed his behaviour, and, turning to his father, “ Oh! sir, this
“ more

“ more than convinces me; this one
“ instance of an abject spirit were
“ sufficient, if I had a doubt remain-
“ ing to clear it; not a vestige of
“ the Earl of Manston can I trace in
“ de Courcy;—poor abject wretch,
“ enjoy thy short-lived triumph.”

C H A P. XVIII.

THE King was impatient to signalize himself, by some great master-stroke, before the army was reinforced by the expected French and Italians, who, jealous of Richard's rising glory, pronounced it impossible for his army to remain in Palestine,

Palestine, if not aided by them: he, therefore, proposed to storm the Saracen camp, as a prelude to the taking Joppa, by them deemed invincible; but the history, both of ancient and modern date, has evinced, that no difficulties or danger are ever sufficient to deter the hardy Britons from the most daring attempts.

The report of Richard's arrival spread round the country, and diffused a universal panic: they too well knew his active genius, as a foldier, and with reason dreaded whatever his enterprising spirit dared propose or execute.

Accord-

Accordingly, proper orders being distributed to the different officers throughout the Camp, at midnight they began a silent march, and, before break of day, arrived close to the advanced guard of Saladin's Camp, without discovery: the word being given, the attack began.

Saladin was in council with his chiefs, when the cry of, King Richard is come! and the clashing of arms resounded in their ears! They flew to the place of combat, and found the alarm too justly grounded, to admit of doubt.

The

The Sultan was obliged to exert his utmost influence to recover his foldiers from the terror that feized them: he at length got them under some fort of command, and drew up his army to oppose the English, who still gained upon their foes.

Saladin, every where in person, animated his troops, and partly by threats, partly by promises, induced them to fight.

The troops of Richard, used to conquest, sustained the charge, and, driving them back, entered the entrenchments with them, though the way was
well

well disputed by the Saracens, who, finding themselves drove to the last extremity, fought desperately.

Earl Manston and his son, by their bravery, attracted the notice of King Richard, who, upon enquiry, finding that they were obscure men, who had entered as volunteers, gave orders, when the battle was over, if they survived, to conduct them to his presence.

C H A P. XIX.

EDMUND, wherever danger seemed to threaten, was still foremost; and, as the heat of battle levels all distinction, seemed to contend with Richard himself for superiority. The Saracens attempted to make good their retreat, and the English

lish founded a pursuit, in the midst of which the Earl of Stafford, who led the English horse, was slain: his men stopped, till Edmund, seeing their disorder, caught the falling standard, and called to them to follow him; they did, and joined the King in safety: he gazed with wonder and delight on the young Edmund, whose helmet being lost, his fine flaxen hair flowed in ringlets over his armour, and added superior dignity to his looks.

The Saracens made a valiant effort to rally and disengage themselves, when Richard's horse dropped dead under him; and the few faithful soldiers, that
had

had parted from the main body, to support his eager pursuit, could not have preserved their King; but Edmund, quick in thought, and bold in execution, flung himself by the King, and snatching the royal helmet, put it on; and again springing into his saddle, cried, "I surrender to the
" Saracen chief; but let my people
" pass unhurt; to stop the now vain
" pursuit, I am Richard."

All eager to secure the royal prize, neglected those that followed, and with tumultuous shouts conducted him to the Sultan; but more like a triumphant conqueror, than a prisoner,

They all feared the name of Richard in so great a degree, that not one had even presumed to ask his sword.

Saladin had assumed all the grandeur a field of battle could possibly admit, to receive his royal prisoner; and putting on a stern aspect, determined to upbraid him with first commencing hostilities in his kingdom. The youthful Lord advanced towards him with a most intrepid air; and, with peculiar dignity, lifting up the royal helmet, where the crown shone with resplendent lustre, “ Behold me, noble Saladin, “ not as King of England, but as one “ of Richard’s subjects!—he is safe “ from thy malicious rage, therefore, “ on

“ on me, devoted to my King, revenge
“ the disappointment.”

“ Wretch!” exclaimed the disappointed Sultan, “ the cruelest of tortures be thy doom!”

“ Come on,” cried the undaunted Edmund, drawing his sword, “ I
“ brave them all; nor will I be the
“ first Englishman that has yielded
“ to infidels!—I have saved my
“ King, and glory in the thought!
“ —my life shall cost ye dear!—let
“ loose your armed bands, and let me
“ fall nobly! for torture never shall
“ stretch my joints, while life remains
“ to guard them!”

Struck

Struck with amazement at the coolness with which he defied his power, Saladin rose from his throne, and the ferocity of his countenance brightening with a smile; "Go! noble and
"unconquered youth — go! in-
"form thy brave countrymen, that
"even we can distinguish merit, and
"reward it!" Then, turning to his officers, he commanded them to give the young soldier some refreshments, and conduct him to the English camp, with every military honor, as due to himself.

They all crowded round, to behold the man, who had, by his courage, awed even their Sultan.

After

After being treated with every respect he could receive, a chosen band conducted him to the camp. The noise of his arrival, and the fame of the action, which the Saracens related, spread through the camp, and soon reached the King: he came before him with his vizard down. Richard's noble heart beat high with gratitude; he hastened to embrace his brave deliverer! "Instruct me, noble youth," said he, "how to reward thy loyalty; and receive the overflowings of a mind replete with gratitude: What is thy name? Wilt thou accept the boon of knighthood?—Thou shalt
"be

“ be my knight ; take off thy helmet,
“ and kneel.”

He held his sword ready to confer the intended honor, when Edmund, bowing, “ Pardon me, Sire, I cannot
“ accept the honors you intend me,
“ nor yet unfold my reasons for refusing them :—to - morrow’s sun
“ beholds us at the gates of Joppa;
“ gain we that important city, then,
“ at thy feet, grateful thou shalt see
“ me ; and, if more worthy of thy
“ favor, ask a boon : what I have
“ atchieved, allegiance to my King
“ exacted. With permission, Sire, I
“ humbly take my leave, till Joppa
“ own my King for her’s.

Saying

Saying this he withdrew, leaving Richard more astonished than ever, at this evasive answer, and entreated de Courcy to endeavour to fathom the mystery. The office pleased him, and he determined, the following night, to seize both the strangers, and force them to confess who they were; for, conscious of his own guilt, he ever mistrusted appearance in others.

Meanwhile, the anxious Edmund left no way untried, to gain some news of Laura; but the accounts he heard determined him and his father to hasten the discovery of de Courcy's treachery. It was reported in the camp, that Lord Manston was guardian to a beautiful

beautiful young Lady, who he always kept confined in one of his tents, nobody having access to her but himself, Sir Philip de Montford, who was just arrived, and her attendants.

The next morning, before the day scarce dawned, the impatient troops were ready to attend their brave leaders to the expected attack. They assailed the walls, and though defended by a numerous garrison, and every fortification of art and nature, that age produced, yet, the brave English, disdainng all resistance, drove them from the battlements, and burst the gates asunder.



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